(b) The details of amount due to the farmers supplying sugar cane to the Karnataka sugar mills for the past two sugar seasons are given below:—

(TU. in Crores)

Season	As on	Total price Payable	Total price paid	Arrears	% of arrears on price Payable
2000-2001	30.9.2001	117283.72	110301.72	6982.00	5.95
1999-2000	30.9.2000	81510.76	74624.47	6886.29	8.45

The percentage arrear of cane price for the season 2000-2001 was 5.95 as against 8.45 during the season 1999-2000. The percentage of cane price arrears in 2000-2001 was lower inspite of higher volume of crushing by the sugar factories in the season 2000-2001.

Government of Karnataka has arranged term loans and other pledged loans to some of the Sugar Factories towards clearance of dues by providing guarantee in favour of sugar factories.

Grain Banks

1239. SHRI SOLIPETARAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up grain banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such banks to be set up, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the financial assistance expected to be released to these banks annually and by when, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Grain Banks in tribal villages since 1996-97 in 13 States. Recently, the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Export has recommended to expand the village Grain Bank Scheme with some modifications in all those endemic prone and migration prone areas with concentration of tribal population and also in other tribal areas. It has also been proposed to expand the scheme in non-tribal areas, if, need be at a later stage.

The revised Scheme is aimed at covering 1.14 lakh tribal villages throughout the country in the first phase with an estimated cost of Rs. 1066.00 crores. The cash component under the Scheme is Rs. 66.00 crore to be disbursed to the States for storage bins, expenditure on lifting of foodgrains etc. under the scheme. The food grains are to be supplied to the State on their demand through the FCI. The revised Scheme is yet to be approved by Government.

Procurement of paddy

† l240. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of paddy has been completed in the country by the end of October, 2001;

(b) if not, the quantum of foodgrains lying in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India by the end of October, 2001;

(c) the quantum of rice, wheat, paddy and other foodgrains, separately; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on procurement of this stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The procurement of paddy is still in progress. The quantity of food grains available in Central Pool at the end of October, 2001 alongwith its approximate acquisition cost is as under:—

Commodity	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
Wheat	357.97	26413
Rice*	265.03	27125
Coarsegrains	0.02	
Total	623.02	53538

*(including paddy in terms of rice)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.